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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/724,829	12/02/2003	Masayuki Koshino	246071US90	2814
22850	7590	06/04/2007	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			MEW, KEVIN D	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2616		
		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		06/04/2007	ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/724,829	KOSHINO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kevin Mew	2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 2003.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 December 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/30/04, 5/17/07</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action***Specification***

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

In particular, the abstract exceeds 150 words in length. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art, Ruffini (WO 0042728 A).

Regarding claim 1, Ruffini discloses a radio access network (GSM network, page 10, lines 7-13) system having a synchronous server (main unit, page 7, lines 15-23) and at least one node (respective elements, page 8, lines 1-7), wherein the synchronous server comprises:

a clock generator (time-generating unit, page 24, lines 29-32, element 11, Fig. 2)

configured to periodically generate a clock (generates a time stamp at pre-defined time intervals, page 7, lines 30-33, page 8, lines 1-7, page 24, lines 29-32); and

a synchronous message transmitter (transmitting unit, page 24, lines 29-32, element 12,

Fig. 2) configured to generate a synchronous message (send a time stamp) for notifying

information regarding the generated clock (notifying the transfer time regarding the clock

generated, page 8, lines 1-7), and to transmit the generated synchronous message to the node

(and to transmit the time stamp to the respective element, page 8, lines 1-10, element 2, Fig. 3)

using an IP packet (using IP, page 12, lines 7-13); and

the node (the respective element, element 2, Fig. 3) comprises:

a time calculator (an evaluating unit, element 22a, Fig. 3) configured to obtain a time of receiving the synchronous message (for evaluating a time error, which is a variation in the arrival times of the time stamps, page 25, lines 25-31, page 26, lines 1-21, element 22a, Fig. 3); and

a clock correction processor (a calibrating unit, page 25, lines 13-15, element 22, Fig. 3)

configured to calculate a clock correction value (calculating time error, page 25, lines 25-31) in

accordance with the time of receiving the synchronous message (according to the arrival time of

the time stamp) and the information regarding the clock notified by the synchronous message

(and the transfer time information notified by the time stamp, page 25, lines 13-15, 25-31), and

to correct a generated timing of a clock in the node (to calibrate and adjust the clock of the local

oscillator, page 26, lines 17-21, element 21, Fig. 3) in accordance with the clock correction value

(in accordance with the time error, page 26, lines 17-21).

Regarding claim 2, Ruffini discloses a radio communication method in a radio access network system (GSM network, page 10, lines 7-13) having a synchronous server (main unit, page 7, lines 15-23, element 1, Fig. 2) and at least one node (respective element, page 8, lines 1-7, element 2, Fig. 3), the method comprising the steps of:

generating a clock periodically generate a clock (generates a time stamp at pre-defined time intervals, page 7, lines 30-33, page 8, lines 1-7, page 24, lines 29-32); and

generating a synchronous message (send a time stamp) for notifying information regarding the generated clock (notifying the transfer time regarding the clock generated, page 8, lines 1-7);

transmitting the generated synchronous message to the node (and to transmit the time stamp to the respective element, page 8, lines 1-10, element 2, Fig. 3) using an IP packet (using IP, page 12, lines 7-13); and

calculating a clock correction value in accordance with a time of receiving the synchronous message (evaluating a time error, which is a variation in the arrival times of the time stamps, page 25, lines 25-31, page 26, lines 1-21, element 22a, Fig. 3) and the information regarding the clock notified by the synchronous message (and the transfer time information notified by the time stamp, page 25, lines 13-15, 25-31); and

correcting a generated timing of a clock in the node (to calibrate and adjust the clock of the local oscillator, page 26, lines 17-21, element 21, Fig. 3) in accordance with the clock correction value (in accordance with the time error, page 26, lines 17-21).

Regarding claim 3, Ruffini discloses a synchronous server (main unit, page 7, lines 15-

23, element 1, Fig. 2) in a radio access network system (GSM network, page 10, lines 7-13)

system having at least one node, the server (main unit, element 1, Fig. 2) comprising:

a clock generator (time-generating unit, page 24, lines 29-32, element 11, Fig. 2)

configured to periodically generate a clock (generates a stamp at pre-defined time intervals, page

7, lines 30-33, page 8, lines 1-7, page 24, lines 29-32); and

a synchronous message transmitter (transmitting unit, page 24, lines 29-32, element 12, Fig. 2) configured to generate a synchronous message (send a time stamp) for notifying information regarding the generated clock (notifying the transfer time regarding the clock generated, page 8, lines 1-7), and to transmit the generated synchronous message to the node (and to transmit the time stamp to the respective element, page 8, lines 1-10, element 2, Fig. 3) using an IP packet (using IP, page 12, lines 7-13)

Regarding claim 4, Ruffini discloses the synchronous server according to claim 3, wherein the synchronous message transmitter sets a time (set a pre-defined interval) of transmitting the synchronous message as the information regarding the clock in the synchronous message (at which to transmit the time stamp generated, page 24, lines 29-32).

Regarding claim 5, Ruffini discloses a node in a radio access network system having a synchronous server, the node (the respective element, element 2, Fig. 3) comprising:

a receiver (a receiving unit, element 23, Fig. 3) configured to receive a synchronous message for notifying information regarding a clock generated in the synchronous server (for receiving the time stamp generated in the main unit, page 26, lines 1-7);

a time calculator (an evaluating unit, element 22a, Fig. 3) configured to obtain a time of receiving the synchronous message (for evaluating a time error, which is a variation in the arrival times of the time stamps, page 25, lines 25-31, page 26, lines 1-21, element 22a, Fig. 3); and

a clock correction processor (a calibrating unit, page 25, lines 13-15, element 22, Fig. 3) configured to calculate a clock correction value (calculating time error, page 25, lines 25-31) in accordance with the time of receiving the synchronous message (according to the arrival time of the time stamp) and the information regarding the clock notified by the synchronous message (and the transfer time information notified by the time stamp, page 25, lines 13-15, 25-31), and to correct a generated timing of a clock in the node (to calibrate and adjust the clock of the local oscillator, page 26, lines 17-21, element 21, Fig. 3) in accordance with the clock correction value (in accordance with the time error, page 26, lines 17-21).

Regarding claim 6, Ruffini discloses the time calculator measures a reception interval of the synchronous message (for evaluating a time error, which is a variation in the arrival times of the time stamps, page 25, lines 25-31, element 22a, Fig. 3) and calculates the clock correction value (calculates time error, page 25, lines 25-31) without using the synchronous message (without using the transmission times) when the reception interval of the synchronous message is more than a predetermined threshold (when the maximum time error or variations in the arrival times of the time stamps has been reached, page 26, lines 23-27).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruffini (WO 0042728 A).

Regarding claim 7, Ruffini discloses all the aspects of claim 5 above and the node further comprises associating a time of transmitting set in the synchronous message with the time of receiving the synchronous message in the node, upon receiving the synchronous message (page 25, lines 13-15, 25-31, page 26, lines 17-21), except fails to disclose a memory for doing the association.

However, Ruffini discloses a storage space (element 24, Fig. 3) for storing various calibration results of the local oscillator (page 22, lines 1-3, page 27, lines 23-31).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the respective element 2 of Ruffini with the teaching of Ruffini in having a memory for storing various calibration results of the local oscillator such that the respective element of Ruffini will comprise a memory for associating a time of transmitting set in the synchronous message with the time of receiving the synchronous message in the node, upon receiving the synchronous message.

The motivation to do so is to obtain a use the value stored in the storage space for adjustment of the local oscillator, in the event of the time stamps of the central time-generating unit being lost.

Regarding claim 8, Ruffini discloses all the aspects of claim 7 above. Ruffini also discloses the node according to claim 7, wherein the time calculator obtains the time of transmitting the synchronous message and the time of receiving the synchronous message, calculates a transmission interval of the synchronous message and a reception interval of the synchronous message, and calculates the clock correction value in accordance with a comparison between the transmission interval and the reception interval (page 25, lines 13-15, 25-31, page 26, lines 17-21), except fails to explicitly show the time calculator obtains from a memory the time of transmitting the synchronous message and the time of receiving the synchronous message.

However, Ruffini discloses a storage space (element 24, Fig. 3) for storing various calibration results of the local oscillator (page 22, lines 1-3, page 27, lines 23-31).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the respective element 2 of Ruffini with the teaching of Ruffini in having a memory for storing various calibration results of the local oscillator such that the respective element of Ruffini will comprise the time calculator that obtains the time of transmitting the synchronous message and the time of receiving the synchronous message from a memory/storage space.

Art Unit: 2616

The motivation to do so is to obtain a use the value stored in the storage space for adjustment of the local oscillator, in the event of the time stamps of the central time-generating unit being lost.

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Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Mew whose telephone number is 571-272-3141. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



CHI PHAM
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Work Group 2616

